	7. Ahmednagar *.
	Beed
	9 Osmanabad
	10. Latur
	11. Buldana
	12. Bhandara
	13. Aurangabad
4. Rajasthan :	1. Ajmer
	3. Alwar
	3. Banswara
	4. Barmer
	5. Bhilwara
	6. Bikaner
	7. Bondi
	8. Chirtorgarh
	9. Churu
	10. Dausa
	11. Dholpur
	12. Dungarpur
	13. Ganganagar
	14. Jaipur
	15. Jaisalmer
	16. Jalore
	17. Jhunjhunu
	18. Jodhpur
	19. Nagaur
	20. Pali
	21. Rajsamand
	22. Sirohi
	23' Sawai Madhopur
	24. Tonk
	25. Udaipur

Foodgrain subsidy

55,7. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that food-grain subsidy for the year 1993-94 was estimated to be Rs. 3000 crore but it went up to Rs. 5300 crore ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) what is the proposed food-grain subsidy for the year 1994-95 whether there is any move to withdraw the subsidy;

(d) by what time Government will bring down sugar prices in the open Market to the level of Consumer Satisfaction ; and

(e) what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) while food subsidy for the year 1993-94 was estimated to be around Rs. 4,600 crores, a total provision of Rs. 5,700 crores had been made in the RE 1993-94 taking into account increase in the procurement cost of grains, delayed and partial passing on of the increased costs to PDS consumers, increase in interest charges, increase in freight charges and arrears of subsidy for previous years. Out of this provision a sum of Rs. 5537 crores was paid towards food subsidy and balance amount towards fertiliser transactions.

(c) For the year 1994-95 a provision of Rs. 4,000 crores has been made on this account. There is no proposal to withdraw food subsidy.

(d) and (e) The Government is constantly monitoring the prices of sugar in the open market. The wholesale price of S-30 grade of sugar in the principal market of the country, which were in the range of Rs. 1483 to Rs. 1630 per quintal on 19th May,

1994, have declined to the range of Rs. 1293 to Rs. 1S70 from 1st July to 21st July, 1994. To contain the sugar prices and to ensure adequate Availability of sugar, the following measures have been taken :

1. Import of sugar has been allowed under OGL. No duty of customs will be levied on this import A quantity of about 5.98 lakh tonnes imported by private parties as already arrived at various ports upto 22-7-1994 and has started reaching domestic markets in various parts of the country.

2. In order to augment the supply for the Public Distribution System, it has further been decided that Public Sector Undertakings, *i.e.* STC and MMTC, would also undertake import of sugar. Of the contracts made by STC/MMTC, a quantity of about 42,000 tonnes has already arrived at various ports.

3. Import of raw sugar has been placed under the OGL.

4. With a view to ensure that indigenous sugar is not held back by sugar mills, restrictions on sale and despatch of freesale sugar has been imposed on a weekly basis, instead of fornightly basis which existed earlier.

5. Gur (Control) Order 1994 has been issued, imposing stock-holding limits, turnover period etc., on the stocks held by gur dealers. This has been done with a view to discourage speculative hoarding of gur. It is also expected to have a synrache one sobering effect on sugar prices.

6. Sugar industry has been persuaded to agree to the conversion of 2.S lakh tonnes of freesale sugar into levy as loan on replenishment bask, for distribution to the consumers through the Public Distribution Systems.

7. Sugar prices in the open market are regulated through monthly releases, which are made in a judicious manner, in order to maintain the prices at reasonable levels.

Import of sugar

5S8. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports regarding largo scale fature trading in sugar by Indian operators only days before the cabinet decide to duty free imports of sugar ; and

(b) if so, what are the names of people and firms who have imported sugar after the cabiner decision and the quantity of sugar imported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) No , Sir.

(b) Since Government has no reports regarding large scale future trading in sugar by Indian operators prior to the decision of the Cabinet about duty free import of sugar, the names of such persoas/firms are not available with the Ministry of Food.

However, a statement showing the names of importers of sugar under Open General Licence (OGL) and the quantity of sugar imported by them into India till 22-7-1994 morning is enclosed.